Industries in North-Eastern State

1377. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the new strategy of developing Commerce and Industry in North-Eastern State;

(b) the success in opening up the commercial water routes of Brahmaputra *via* Bangladesh and land routes by Stilwel road to Myanmar, Moreh route to Myanmar and Dawki route to Bangladesh; and

(c) what is the volume of trade both way during the last three years through these routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The strategy of developing commerce and industry in the North-Eastern States involves inter alia.

(i) entering into bilateral joint cooperation projects between India and Myanmar, India and Bangladesh

(ii) entering into trilateral cooperation on developing highway linkages between India, Myanmar and Thiland

(iii) providing financial assistance to the North-Eastern States for developing infrastructure for exports

(iv) providing transport assistane for export of specified agricultural and processed products from the North-Eastern States including Sikkim

(v) organising seminars, workshops, fairs and buyer-sellers meeting for improving trade with the neighbouring countries.

(b) The commercial water routes of Brahmaputa via Bangladesh are utilised under the auspices of the India-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (IWTT) which provides for movement of goods through inland waterways through identified routes including the river Brahmaputra. As per the IWTT Protocol, eight ports-or call have been identified including river Brahmaputra. The Government of India has proposed increasing the number of ports-of-call under the Protocol on IWTT. Discussions are being held for the same.

The Dawki land route in Meghalayya connecting to Tamabil in Bangladesh is in operation. Large quantities of coal, limestone and other goods are being exported to Bangladesh through this route. The Government of India is working on improving infrastructure facilities to promote further economic and commercial linkages between India and Bangladesh.

At present there is no proposal regarding revival of Still well/Ledo road with Government of India.

Regarding the Moreh route, the upgradation of Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo (TKK) road was completed. It was inaugurated in February, 2001: The road starts from the India-Myanmar border (near Moreh in India) and links up with the highway to Mandalay. It thus had the potential of becoming an extension of National Highway-39 from Imphal to Myanmar. In due course, it would provide the linkage for movement beyond Myanmar as part of the proposed Tans-Asia Highway. Therefore, the road is expected to serve the interests of promoting trade the travel linkages between the North-East and Myanmar; and in future with South-East Asia.

(c) Volume of trade specific to each route is not being maintained.

Linking of Industrial Development with National Development

†1378. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link industrial development with national development;

(b) if so, the names of the industries in which this type of system is operative;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : (a) to (d) The economic development of a nation is measured in terms of its Gross Domestic

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.